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SOURCE Bashkimi.KUVEND PASSES STATE BUDGET

REVENUES TO BE 22 PERCENT ABOVE LAST YEAR -- Bashkimi, No 1631, 17 Mar 50

On 15 March 1950 the Albanian People's Kuvend approved the state budget for 1950, which provides for revenues of 7,800,000,000 lek and expenditures of 7,700,000,000 lek.

The revenue plan for 1949 was realized 97 percent. However, a surplus of 100 million lek was accumulated in 1949. This surplus and a planned increase in industrial production account for the increase of 22 percent in the total revenue figure as compared with 1949.

The revenues from the state economic sector are to be 48 percent greater than in 1949, those from the cooperative sector 35 percent greater, and those from the population 5 percent greater.

Because of increased agricultural production, greater revenues are expected from the peasantry in 1950; but revenues from taxation will not increase in proportion. Poor peasants with incomes of less than 10,000 lek will be exempt from taxation.

Expenditures for 1950 will be 46 percent greater than actual expenditures in 1949. Expenditures for the economy will be 49 percent greater, for education 42 percent greater, and for public health 33 percent greater. The budget allows 2,600,000,000 lek for investment in and equipment for economic enterprises, in addition to the funds they furnish for these purposes from their own revenues. The construction of the textile and sugar combines, the building of the Pegin-Elbasan railroad line, and other transportation and reclamation projects will constitute the major investments under the 1950 budget.

The budget calls for expenditures of 662 million lek for education and culture.

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BUDGET CALLS FOR MORE HEALTH FACILITIES -- Bashkimi, No 1630, 16 Mar 50

According to a report presented before the People's Kuvend by Medar Shtylla, Minister of Health, on 15 March, the new state budget provides for expenditures of 379,475,000 lek, or 133 percent of the 1949 figure, for the protection and improvement of the people's health in 1950. Of this sum, 222,599,000 lek will be provided by the national budget and 156,876,000 lek by the local budgets.

For the technical training of personnel for work requiring low and medium skill, and for propaganda and publicity within Albania, 10 million lek, or 122.4 percent of the 1949 figure, will be spent.

For the construction, operation, and activities of medical and preventive institutions, including hospitals, sanatoriums, maternity hospitals, dispensaries, clinics, ambulances, consultation rooms, etc., 224,843,000 lek, or 119.2 percent of the 1949 figure, will be spent.

The minister reported that there were no epidemics of contagious diseases in Albania during 1949, except a minor epidemic of typhoid fever in Fier. This outbreak, according to the Minister of Health, resulted from insufficient vigilance and care by local health authorities, who have since been punished. He also reported a drop in the rate of malarial infection. Of all the patients who visited health institutions in 1949, only 4 percent had malaria, as compared with 8.1 percent in 1948.

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